

EXCERPT FROM  
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STATEMENT OF MILITARY DEPENDENCE ON THE DOMESTIC  
(COMMERCIAL) COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES

1. General. The nerve system of National Defense is the sum total of all communications systems that are available, operationally and potentially, for the prosecution of any emergency or war effort. The operational existence of nation-wide systems of rapid voice and record communications in peacetime is indispensable from the standpoint of meeting the wartime requirements of both the Military Services and the civil economy. As the intensity and complexity of warfare continues to increase, correspondingly greater demands will be placed on the communications systems of the nation from the standpoint of both circuit capacity and flexibility of operation. It is, therefore, considered in the vital interest of National Defense that there be maintained within the United States to meet that need, as many nation-wide commercial communications systems as are economically feasible.

2. Military Policy Regarding Use of Commercial Facilities

It is impracticable to employ similar concepts and standards in assessing military and commercial communications requirements. In the development of commercial facilities, expected revenue must of natural consequence be a prime consideration. Military communications, on the other hand, as an essential element of command must first satisfy military needs with economy of force or funds an important but secondary consideration. As a result of this fundamental difference, it is impossible for the Military to enunciate a policy which will under all conditions prescribe the specific degree to which it will utilize or depend on commercial communications facilities. It is incumbent on all military commanders, in compliance with the basic prin-

ciples of economy of force, to make maximum possible use of all existing facilities available to them including commercial service. Before reaching a decision to employ other than strictly military facilities, each commander based on the conditions prevailing in his area must weigh any advantages from the standpoint of economy against the resulting effect on military security and control, dependability of service and the rapid flow of military messages. As general policy, therefore, it may be stated that the Military Services will, whenever practicable, utilize commercial facilities and service in the interest of economy of force or funds provided that acceptable military standards of security, control, and service can be maintained.

### 3. Military Use of Commercial Facilities in the Zone of the Interior.

During the early period in the development of national communications systems, it was necessary for the Military Services to construct and operate their own communications facilities in the Zone of the Interior. Today, however, extensive, dependable commercial communications networks cover the length and breadth of the United States. From the standpoint of security, the risk normally involved in partial military control of its communications has been considered as being relatively low within the continental United States. This condition is a result of the close working relationship that exists between the Military Services and the commercial communication organizations and the existence of adequate legislation to permit prompt government operation and control if deemed advisable in the national interest.

Under these conditions, the construction and maintenance of completely separate communications systems within the United States for exclusive military use would entail an unjustifiable outlay of funds, manpower, and equipment. Military policy concerning use of commercial communications facilities

in the Zone of the Interior may, therefore, be summarized as follows:

"Within the continental limites of the United States, the Military Services, in establishing communications networks for the purpose of interconnecting their various headquarters, installations and activities, will be lease or other contractual arrangement, utilize commercial facilities and services when available and feasible except where unusual security or operational conditions are required. The terminal facilities including communications centers and relay stations of these networks will be operated and controlled by the Military Services."

4. The Commercial Communications Networks as a Source of Trained Personnel for Military Service.

The Military Services can maintain in peacetime only the nucleus of a wartime communications system. It is also well established that the impact of a state of war or national emergency on military communications systems is instantaneous and can only be met through immediate expansion of both trunk and terminal facilities.

Modern communications facilities while extremely efficient require a comparatively long lead time in the training of operator and maintenance personnel. Hence in the critical period between the outbreak of hostilities and the time when military training programs can meet over-all demands, the commercial systems of the United States represent an important source of additional trained communications personnel for military service.

In this connection, it is the policy of the Military Services to maintain a close, working relationship with the commercial communications companies of the nation in order that anticipated wartime military requirements may be re-

flected in peacetime expansion and training programs and to the end that emergency military needs for trained commercial communications personnel may be met and with minimum effect on the continued operation of vital domestic communications facilities. Further, to facilitate the transition of commercial communications personnel from civilian to military operation, it is the policy of the Military Services to utilize fixed communications equipment of standard commercial design to the maximum possible extent and to prescribe similar operational and maintenance techniques.

5. Trends in Military Use of U.S. Domestic Communications Facilities

The Military Services do not foresee the necessity for any material change in current policy concerning their use of commercial facilities within the Zone of the Interior. In both peace and war, these facilities have proven to be operationally reliable and fully responsive to military requirements. This, in effect, means that for continuous, effective coordination of military operations within the United States, the Military Services will remain largely dependent on the commercial communications systems of the nation. Hence, while not being in a position to pass judgment on measures designed to improve the economic well-being of the commercial companies, the Military Services will have a vital interest in any changes which might adversely affect the capacity and operational efficiency of the commercial systems.

The advent of long-range, highly destructive warfare, including intensive infiltration by subversive elements, will require greatly increased defensive measures on the part of both military and civilian agencies. The impact of this increase on the domestic communications facilities of the nation has not been fully determined, but may reasonably be expected to be of considerable proportion.

Instrumentalities now exist which provide that in time of war or national emergency, the total telecommunications resources of the nation can be placed at the disposal of the government. The Military Services are mindful, however, that any successful prosecution of a war effort will require that all agencies contributing to this effort be afforded use of these facilities on a just and equitable basis and, in addition, must insure reasonable safety, comfort, and security for the civilian populace. To this end, the Military Services believe that the domestic communications systems of the United States should be as efficient and dependable as sound engineering, reasonable economy and good operating practices will allow, and that their capacity should reflect not only the ability to handle greatly increased wartime volumes, but maximum flexibility in terms of as many alternate routings and types of facilities as can be had consistent with the ability of the commercial companies to realize a reasonable profit from their investments.

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